

COMMUNITY NEWS

2003 Elba beauty queens crowned in four categories



The Elba Miss Pageant was held March 15, 2003 at the Elba High School auditorium. This is the second year that the pageant was sponsored by the New Seasons Study Club. Audience members were entertained by the current Miss Alabama, Scarlett Deupree. Miss Deupree also served as the mistress of ceremonies for the event.

Winners were named in several categories including photogenic, evening gown, verbal communications, interview and written communications. These winners were:

Photogenic

Miss Elba: Anna Anderson; Junior Miss Elba: Hannah Manning; Little Miss Elba: Caitlin Cooper; and Future Little Miss Elba: Madelyn Kelley

Evening Gown

Miss Elba: Anna Anderson; Junior Miss Elba: Kendall Stinson; and Little Miss Elba: Reagan Kelley

Verbal Communications

Miss Elba: Anna Anderson; Junior Miss Elba: Cameron Irwin; and Little Miss Elba: Reagan Kelley

Interview

Miss Elba: Anna Anderson; Junior Miss Elba: Kendall Stinson; and Little Miss Elba: Reagan Kelley

Written Communications

Miss Elba: Natasha Brooks

Overall Ad Sales Winner: Cameron Irwin

LITTLE MISS ELBA... (from left) - 2nd runner up Sarah Bryan, 1st runner up Caitlin Cooper, Little Miss Elba 2003 Reagan Kelley, and 3rd runner up Venecia Magwood.

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Miss Elba 2003... Anna Anderson was crowned Miss Elba 2003. Not pictured are 1st runner up Natasha Brooks and 2nd runner up Meredith English.



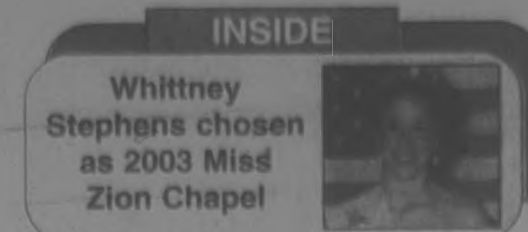
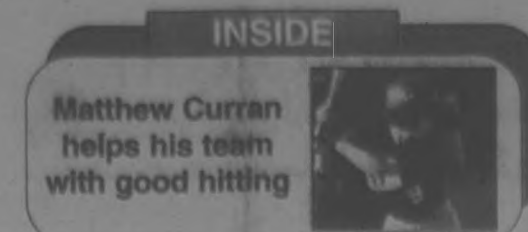
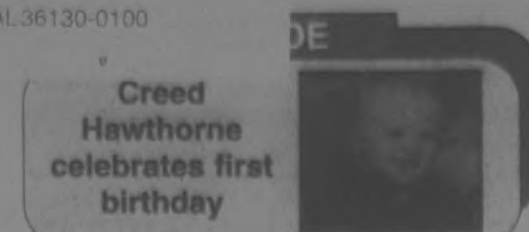
FUTURE LITTLE MISS ELBA... (from left) - 3rd runner up Emilee Hudson, 1st runner up Madelyn Kelley, Future Little Miss Elba 2003 Annely Padgett, and 2nd runner up Kaelyn Fillingim.



JUNIOR MISS ELBA... (from left) - 2nd runner up Kendall Stinson, 1st runner up Kayla Kelley, Junior Miss Elba 2003 Cameron Irwin, and 3rd runner up Casey Medlock.

Elba Elementary School Menu April 14 - 18, 2003

BREAKFAST	LUNCH
Monday: Cinnamon Toast, Shredded Cheese, Cereal, Juice, Milk	Monday: Taco Salad, Corn on Cob, 1/2 Apple, Milk
Tuesday: Pancakes w/ Syrup, Link Sausage, Cereal, Juice, Milk	Tuesday: Hot Dog, Potato Rounds, Mixed Vegetables, Sliced Peaches, Milk
Wednesday: Biscuit & Jelly, Sausage Patty, Cereal, Juice, Milk	Wednesday: Turkey Dressing, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, English Peas, Cranberry Sauce, 1/2 Orange, Bread, Milk
Thursday: Cheese Grits, Toast & Jelly, Cereal, Juice, Milk	Thursday: Hamburger, French Fries, Lettuce, Tomato, Dill Pickles, Easter Cake, Milk
Friday: Good Friday Holiday	Friday: Good Friday Holiday



Volume 106, Number 44 50 Cents Elba, Alabama Thursday, April 17, 2003 1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

Elba City Council hears drainage complaint from owner of new home

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba City Council approved another off premises beer license Monday night with almost no discussion and left unsolved a drainage problem from the owner of a new residence at the corner of Whitman and Lee Streets.

In other business they paid the monthly bills and councilmen mentioned a couple of constituent's complaints which need addressing.

The alcohol license of Timothy Blue was approved pending background checks and other checks by state officials.

James Coleman addressed the council about a drainage problem at his new home located at the intersection of Lee and

Whitman Streets. He explained the water came into his yard from three different directions.

City Clerk Wayne Grantham noted that the city's consulting engineer had visited the site and left with the understanding that Coleman was going to take some action on his property to cure the problem. Coleman said he had legal advice to leave any such work to the city. He was promised that they would look at the problem again.

Several relatively minor complaints from citizens were voiced by Council members Harold Spicer, Jr. Culver and Ronnie Hammond.

Mayor James Grimes scheduled an informal work session on Monday night, April 21st.

Coffee County Commission hears update from D.A. Gary McAiley

by Linda Hodge, Editor

District Attorney Gary McAiley addressed the Coffee County Commission Monday morning, April 14, and provided an update of several things his office is and will be implementing.

Since becoming district attorney, McAiley said his office has processed 243 felony defendants with 203 of those defendants having their cases resolved.

"It's my job to clean up the docket and make sure justice is done for all," he said.

McAiley said the child support division needed a lot of work when he became district attorney, and although it still needs improvements, he said things are looking better with this division.

He said the restitution recovery division should be in full swing by the end of this month, and the objective is to be sure those criminals ordered to pay some sort of restitution to victims are doing just that.

McAiley said his office will look at every case processed over the past 10 years, and notification will be given to those who should be paying restitution to allow them an opportunity to come to the district attorney's office to set up ways to pay the money.

If the person chooses not to come in or pay the money, McAiley said his office will take them back to court.

Following this brief update, the district attorney moved his

Please See CCC, Page 3

Citizens gather around square to kickoff Elba's 150 celebration

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The sun shined brightly Sunday afternoon, April 13, as citizens gathered around the historic downtown square in Elba to kickoff "Celebrate...Elba 150" with a bit of singing, preaching, poetry and even a history lesson.

The Sunday afternoon religious service served as the first scheduled event for the year long celebration of Elba's rich history from 1853-2003, and the spirit of community was evident.

A community choir entertained the crowd with a patriotic medley, "The Star Spangled Banner," several hymns, and, of course, the choir led everyone in singing "Happy Birthday" to Elba, along with "God Bless America."

Former Coffee County Probate Judge Marion Brunson, who is recognized as one of the county's top historians, reminded those in attendance of some of Elba's most remembered events including how Elba came to be, as well as, the floods it has withstood through the years. He also revealed a tidbit of information most in attendance did not realize in that the record books indicated the incorporation date for the City of Elba being April 13, 1853 (exactly 150 years to the date of the sesquicentennial celebration kickoff).

Brunson also spoke of two other sesquicentennial celebrations taking place in Elba this year.

The Elba United Methodist Church remains Elba's oldest church as it too celebrates 150 years, and the Brunson Family Reunion, which brings over 400 descendants to the Elba area each year, will celebrate its 150th reunion in just over one week on Saturday, April 26.

All of this was highlighted with a short sermon by Rev. John Baxter, the current pastor of Elba United Methodist Church, and a special poem written and delivered by Winzell Gray.

Now that "Celebrate...Elba 150" is officially underway, everyone is encouraged to get involved and help make the city's sesquicentennial year one to remember.

The next scheduled event will be the Fun Run on Saturday, May 3, in downtown Elba. For more information, call 897-3125.

Elba citizens of all ages gathered around the square Sunday, April 13, to help kickoff "Celebrate...Elba 150." The event proved to be a great time to remember or learn about events from Elba's past, as well as, a great opportunity to spend a little time with friends.

Tanner Hudson (left) and J. Cole Spicer (right) found some time afterwards to play and have a little fun in the sun.

Perfecting the art of the hunt

When Easter rolls around each year, there is one thing all youngsters have in common - hunting eggs.

And, with the holiday now only a few days away, many youngsters have begun practicing their hunting skills in order to be the one who finds the most eggs during this year's hunt.

In the picture to the right, brothers Seth and Avery Hanchey, the sons of Greg and Lisa Hanchey of Elba, made use of the flower bed in front of their home to refresh all hunting skills as Seth, age 9, offered several pointers to his little brother Avery, age 5.

While Seth and Avery improved their skills just for fun, the bottom picture shows two friends who used an Easter egg hunt as part of a birthday celebration.

Fischer Crowell, the son of Lynn and Kristie Crowell of Elba, helped his little friend, Collin Anderson, the son of Mandi and Mike Anderson of Red Level, celebrate his third birthday by hunting eggs last Saturday afternoon.

So, whether it's two brothers or two friends, Happy Hunting to all this Easter holiday!



New Brockton Town Council votes to apply for three separate grants

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The New Brockton Town Council held a rather routine

meeting Monday evening, April 7, with grants being the main matter of business.

Council members approved a resolution to apply for a grant with ADECA (Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs) to obtain two police cars from the state surplus division.

New Brockton was selected to apply for the grant after Mayor Charles Cole sent a letter to the law enforcement traffic safety division of ADECA requesting assistance in allowing the town to purchase two patrol vehicles.

In his letter, Cole said, "the existing police vehicles are aged with excessively high mileage and need to be replaced for reliable community patrol service."

Lenwood Herron, grant writer for New Brockton, said if New Brockton's application is approved, the grant will be a 90-10 percent matching fund grant, and the amount the town will have to pay will vary based on the asking price of the vehicles chosen for purchase.

Council member Jody Stuckey expressed a concern over looking at buying used vehicles from surplus that have a good number of miles already on them.

"If they don't have anything on surplus that meets our criteria, we don't have to accept it," council member Ron McMonagle said in response.

The motion to accept the res-

olution to apply for the grant with ADECA was approved with all members voting in favor except Stuckey.

Two other grants were discussed by the council, and motions were passed for each.

A Single Purpose Comprehensive Community Development Block project for housing, water, sewer, streets, drainage, etc., and Herron said the new grant amount will be approximately \$400,000 with a \$40,000 local matching fund requirement for New Brockton.

He added that the match amount can be cash or in-kind work.

"We have tentatively looked at extending sewer service to Willow Street, Langston Street, Corey Street, Till Alley and Pearl Street that are currently unserved by sanitary sewer," Herron said.

The council approved a motion to authorize the preparation of the grant application, conduct the necessary public hearings, authorize the mayor to sign the grant application with supporting documentation and submit application to ADECA for funding consideration.

Herron also said the town is eligible to apply for a Community Enhancement Fund Grant Application to renovate the old Jr. Food Store on South John Street.

He also told council members that New Brockton had gone from 46.02 percent low and moderate income households in 1990 according to the U.S. Census to 51.3 percent according to the 2000 U.S. Census.

"This is good statistical grant news for the town in that New Brockton now qualifies on a

Please See TOWN, Page 2

Area Happenings

WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH BAPTIST MEN will sponsor the annual community Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 20, at 6:30 a.m. Rev. Bobby Holladay, pastor of Westside, will bring the message. The Westside choir will provide the music. Breakfast will follow in the Activities Building. Everyone is invited to attend the service and breakfast that follows.

ELBA'S SESQUICENTENNIAL FUN RUN will be Saturday, May 3, and everyone is invited to come out and join the fun of a one mile run, walk or jog around downtown Elba. Registration will begin at 7 a.m., and the fun run will begin at 8 a.m. Registration and beginning of the race will be at the Elba Senior Citizens Building across from the police station. There will be one winner in each age division with that winner receiving an Elba Sesquicentennial Celebration T-shirt.

THE DOTHAN-HOUSTON COUNTY SUBSTANCE ABUSE PARTNERSHIP AND THE WIREGRASS HISPANIC LUTHERAN OUTREACH PROGRAM will host the International Family Day in the Park on Saturday, May 3, from 12-10 p.m. with 5 games at the Johnny Hesterwood Park, Hwy. 367 S. Entertainment activities scheduled include: Wiregrass Hispanic dance tournament, Hispanic folkloric live musical entertainment and workshop on Hispanic issues. For more information, call Maria Aguilar at (334) 793-5709.

EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS
with Ferrin Cox

Our eyes had to be inventing things! That was the reaction upon reading the French and Russians were complaining they didn't get a chance to bid on contracts the American government was letting to rebuild war torn Iraq! Yet it was true. A Frenchman stood up and accused the U.S. of being unfair. Adding to what we consider an insult to every American and British soldier who died, or even participated, in "Iraqi Freedom" they are now wanting to be right in the middle of making decisions for post war Iraq! In fact news reports indicate they are holding planning meetings with the Russians and Germans on just that subject. Personally we could make it real clear to them exactly where they could put their "plans", but then that is another good reason for someone else to be making the diplomatic decisions for this country. Probably for the good of civilization, America should listen to the leaders of other countries and even allow them to have meaningful input into recovery plans. Of course, even diplomats need to make it clear to these folks that they must also get off their pocketbooks and help pay the bills.

It is a bit frightening to hear this country's leaders making macho talk to the people of Syria. True, it is interesting to think the Syrians might be desiring from the bottom of the deck and actually still giving support to the now fallen Iraqi leaders. However starting a new war, with another country, can, and will, add substance to the claims that the U.S. is trying to take over the world - and do it in spades. A good sign in this area is that our aircraft carriers are coming home from the Gulf War and not hanging around the area waiting for the other shoe to drop (on Syria).

It is amazing to us that this war is winding down without the thousands of casualties many expected and frankly is normal in wars. For this we can be forever thankful. Another amazing part of this war is the complete disappearance of Saddam Hussein, his wife Sajida Khairallah Telfah, two sons Quday and Uday and three daughters, plus their families. Oh, and one other person missing is reported to be an "out of wedlock" son of the Iraqi leader. Add in dozens of members of the Saddam inner circle and their families and this puzzle gets, well puzzling. The one who's whereabouts are known is Parisaula Lampos who is a self described "former mistress" of Saddam. Adding credibility to her claims is the fact American military went to the address where she claimed to have lived before escaping Iraq, and it has been described as a "love nest" with all the trimmings... mirrored wall bedroom, pictures of half naked women on other walls, etc. Of course there were also several large pictures of Saddam in the now abandoned apartment.

Elba High graduate Leeanne Mallory is making waves at Huntingdon College. Presently appearing in the college production of 'Cabaret' in Huntingdon's Dungeon Theatre, she received the following critic's reaction in the Montgomery Advertiser last Saturday for her portrayal of a German landlady by the name of Fraulein Schneider with a storyline set around the beginning of the Nazism rise to power in Germany: "Sophomore Leanne Mallory has carved herself a permanent place in Huntingdon's theater annals. Totally credible and subtly detailed, her performance is a standout in this production." Salute!!

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The Elba Clipper

USPS 171-080
is published every Thursday by The Elba Clipper,
417 W. Buford St., Elba, Alabama 36323
Publication Postage paid at Elba, Alabama 36323

Postmaster: Send Address Changes To:
The Elba Clipper, P.O. Box 677, Elba, AL 36323-0677

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Linda Hodge - EDITOR
Ricky Mularz - SPORTS
Heddy J. Cox - BUSINESS MANAGER

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Coffee County & Surrounding Counties - \$19 per year
6 Months - \$10, including city & state tax
Alabama Counties - \$21 per year - including tax
6 months - \$11
Outside Alabama - \$24 per year - 6 months - \$13

TOWN

town-wide basis for CDBG assistance." Heron said. "The grant amount will be approximately \$250,000 with a \$25,000 local matching fund requirement for New Brockton."

He added that the total amount to renovate the building will more than likely be less than the amount of the grant indicates.

A motion was approved by council members to authorize preparation of the grant, conduct the necessary public hearings, authorize the Mayor to sign the grant application with supporting documentation and submit the application to ADECA for funding consideration.

Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, April 7, 2003, investigated the following incidents: one for harassing communication, three for domestic violence, one for forgery, one for criminal trespassing, two for criminal mischief, one missing person, four for possession of drug paraphernalia, six for possession of marijuana, one for carrying a pistol without a permit, one for possession of a controlled substance, two for receiving stolen property, one for obstruction of government property.

The following arrests were made: one for violation of probation, six for possession of marijuana, four for possession of drug paraphernalia, one for possession of a controlled substance, one for carrying a pistol without a permit, two for receiving stolen property, one for giving a false name to a law enforcement officer, one for failure to appear and one for obstruction of a government operation.

Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: five for driving with a suspended driver's license, one for no insurance, two for speeding, one for driving with no driver's license and one for driving with a revoked driver's license.

Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows:
MONDAY, APRIL 7 - River stage - 6.82 feet (6:16 a.m.); Breaking and entering (not in progress) at 2692 Marilyn St. (4:53 p.m.).

TUESDAY, APRIL 8 - River stage - 17.50 feet (6:03 a.m.); Disturbance reported at 885 Cedar Lane Dr. (7:00 a.m.); River stage - 17.86 feet (8:10 a.m.); River stage - 17.86 feet (9:21 a.m.); River stage - 17.86 feet (10:10 a.m.); River stage - 17.46 feet (12:00 p.m.); River

BULLETIN BOARD

• ABUSING CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES THROUGH CHRIST A.R.M.S. addiction recovery ministry services - Thurs., 7 p.m. - 1st Baptist Church. Call 565-3970 or visit the website: www.addiction.com
• SOCIAL SECURITY REP. Courthouse - 4th Tues. 12:30-1:30. Call (FREE) 1-800-772-1213
• ROTARY CLUB - Tuesday @ Noon-First First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
• ELBA CITY COUNCIL - 2nd & 4th Monday - 6 p.m. City Hall
• WATER & ELECTRIC - Tuesday following 2nd Monday-6 p.m. - City Hall
• ELBA MINISTERIAL ASSN. Tues. - 8 a.m. Elba United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
• GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - every Monday 6:30 p.m. - Elba United Methodist Church - enter on side on W. Davis St. - Maggie Garrett Classroom
• COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION - 2nd & 4th Monday - Community Room in Farm Center Complex @ New Brockton
• LIONS CLUB - 2nd & 4th Tues. - 6:30 p.m. Senior Citizens Center
• ELBA CITY SCHOOL BOARD - 1st Thur. - 5:30 p.m. - Supt. Office
• AMERICAN LEGION - 1st Tuesday of every month - 7:00 p.m. Legion Hall, Troy Hwy.
• MASONIC LODGE 170 - 1st & 3rd Monday of each month - 7 p.m.
• BAND BOOSTERS - 1st Mon. - 7 p.m. Band Room @ Elba High School
• VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER - Mon-Fri 8-12 noon & 12:30 - 4:30 New Brockton @ Farm Center Complex 894-5858
• COFFEE COUNTY COON HUNTERS ASSN. - 3rd Sat. - 5 p.m. Club House
• COFFEE REPUBLICAN WOMEN - 3rd Wed. Noon - Colony Inn, Enterprise
• ELBA AIRPORT AUTHORITY - 2nd Thursday at noon, Driscoll Hangar at the Airport
• AARP meets every 3rd Tuesday night of the month
• ELBA ATHLETIC CLUB - 1st & 3rd Monday - 7 p.m. - Elba High boys locker room
• NEW SEASONS STUDY CLUB - Every 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m.

tion. Upon the recommendation of Cole, the council approved a motion to join the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce at the cost of \$200 per year.

McMonagle said the town was a member of the chamber some three or four years ago, and the general feeling was that it was left out of a lot of things because no one was actively going to the meetings.

"Our active participation will definitely be needed to state our case and defend it," he said. In other business, the council:

* Approved a motion to adopt the vision statement and range goals for the town of

(Continued from Page One)

New Brockton as provided by the planning commission.

* Received an update concerning the town's fund-raising ideas in which the council had previously asked for an attorney's opinion. Council members said the attorney general's opinion indicated the town can proceed with its

plans for raising funds since the money will be used for matching grants and improvements within the town.

* Approved a motion to pay the monthly bills in the amount of \$7,962.04.

* Approved a motion to put a minimum of \$5100 in the reserve fund each month.

I think all people should be proud to say we are free Americans.

If Saddam Hussein had been left alone he would have been another Hitler, and if their neighbor country thinks he would not use drug and chemical warfare on them, they are fools. He was just waiting for the right time to lower the boom on the world like Hitler. There are people today that say the Holocaust never happened. But ask any Jew that lost their family or any family that lost their husband or son in the War! It happened.

Bush said, "If your not with us, then get out of our way." I agree. Love this country or get out of it. If you want to live under a dictator, pack your bags

and go. I am sure there are some people who would pay for your ticket to love it or leave it. America, Home of the Free.

Thank you.

Jacqueline Marler

P.S. I know everyone will not agree with this letter, but it is my free opinion

"Celebrate... Elba 150"

Upcoming Events

May 3
Fun Run/Walk

June 14
Ole Timers Softball

June 21
Youth Fishing Tourney

July 12
Birthday Party "150"

August 23
George Jones Concert

September 6
"Sesquicentennial" Ball

September 25
King/Queen Crowned

October 11
Grand Celebration

October 12
Reception

November - Date TBA
"150" Years Play

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FRESH CHILLED TROPICANA PREMIUM ORANGE JUICE \$1.97 64 OZ. BTL	REAL KRAFT MAYO \$2.07 32 OZ. JAR	ASSORTED VARIETIES WHITE LILY FLOUR \$1.27 5 LB. BAG	ASSORTED FLAVORS KRAFT BBQ SAUCE 87¢ 16 OZ. BTL
APPLE, CHERRY OR PEACH MRS. SMITH'S FRUIT PIES 21¢7 37 OZ. PKG.	ASSORTED MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE \$1.87 7 11.5 OZ. BAGS		

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Cox,

I am proud to be an American. I am glad that our president Mr. Bush stood up for this country. They killed our people in N.Y., Penn., and Wash. They were trying to kill him. Mr. Bush.

I am proud of every man and woman that is in our military. They went to Iraq to fight for freedom. I cry when any one of them is shot or killed even if I don't know them. I laugh when they laugh! I cheer every time they go farther into that country and take something that belongs to Saddam Hussein.

I think all people should be proud to say we are free Americans.

If Saddam Hussein had been left alone he would have been another Hitler, and if their neighbor country thinks he would not use drug and chemical warfare on them, they are fools. He was just waiting for the right time to lower the boom on the world like Hitler. There are people today that say the Holocaust never happened. But ask any Jew that lost their family or any family that lost their husband or son in the War! It happened.

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Thank you.

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"150" Years Play

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CCC

(Continued from Page One)

focus to the deferred prosecution bill.

He said budget information indicates the office will receive state funding cuts, equaling \$162,114 next year. With this being what he says it takes to run the office, McAllely said his office will have to come up with ways to generate additional funding.

The deferred prosecution bill will be one way to help with funding since offenders will have to pay certain costs to be approved for the program.

If passed by the legislature, McAllely said the program allows the district attorney to establish a pre-trial diversion program for first time offenders of non-violent crimes. He said the district attorney will make the decision of who does and does not qualify for the program.

To avoid being prosecuted, McAllely said these individuals pay certain fees including court costs and agree to go through driving school, counseling, etc. He said the fee in which the offender pays will be based on the misdemeanor crime committed.

Overall, McAllely said this

not only make money for the system, but it will give first time offenders a second chance. Also, he said it will keep spots open in the prison system for those who do commit violent crimes.

Those who stand to benefit from this program, if passed, include the courts, law enforcement, district attorneys' office and even the county commission.

County administrator Wilson Mobley presented commissioners with a six month budget report which quickly led to a discussion concerning sheriff's department vehicles.

Mobley said this year's budget allows for the sheriff's department to purchase one new vehicle, or it can lease purchase two vehicles. In the past, he said the department has purchased two vehicles at the time.

While looking over the budget report, commissioner Jim Thompson made reference to all the spare vehicles the department has and the outstanding amount of money used in maintenance repair for the vehicles.

Thompson said he has a problem with purchasing a new car until the sheriff explains the reasoning behind all the spare vehicles.

As for the budget, Mobley said the sheriff's department is basically online with its overall budget for the year, but it is already above budget on the line item for vehicle maintenance.

Regardless, the commissioners seemed to agree in wanting the sheriff to come in and explain the spare vehicle situation, therefore, commission chairman Robert Stephens said he would request Sheriff Ben Moates be at the commission's next meeting which will be Monday, April 28.

Mr. James Young Smith, age 89, of 506 County Road 213, Jack, Ala., died April 13, 2003 at Elba Nursing Home, Elba, Ala.

Funeral services were held April 15, 2003 at Zion Chapel Baptist Church with Rev. Donnie Marler and Rev. Paul Kendrick officiating. Burial followed in the Zion Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery with Hayes Funeral Home of Elba directing.

Mr. Smith was preceded in death by his wife, Dessie Mae Smith, father, Samson Smith; mother, Josephine Smith; and two brothers, Voun D. and Jeffery Smith.

Survivors include two daughters and sons-in-law: Barbara Ann and Farlin Mobley, Mary Nell and Doug C. Shiver, all of Jack, one brother: Feazell Smith, Troy, four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and one great great-grandchild.

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Obituaries

JESSIE MAE SPINKS

Mrs. Jessie Mae Spinks, age 94, of 616 County Road 546, New Brockton, Ala., died April 8, 2003 at the Enterprise Nursing Home.

Funeral services were held April 10, 2003 from the Chapel of Hayes Funeral Home in Elba with Ronald F. Bass officiating. Burial followed in the Bethany Baptist Church Cemetery in New Brockton with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

Mrs. Spinks was preceded in death by her husband, Columbus Spinks, and a son-in-law, James Burkett.

Survivors include one daughter, Jane Burkett, New Brockton; one granddaughter and grandson-in-law, Jana B. Keith Smith; and one great-granddaughter, Juliana Sims, all of Navarre, Fla.

KATHLEEN SIPPER LEGG
Mrs. Kathleen Sipper Legg, age 77, of 31270 Highway 87 N., Troy, Ala., died April 11, 2003 at her residence after a long battle with Alzheimer's.

Funeral services were held April 13, 2003 at Hebron Baptist Church with Rev. Ray Stinson and Rev. Rick Hayes officiating. Burial followed in the Hebron Church Cemetery of Jack, Ala., with Hayes Funeral Home of Elba directing.

Mrs. Legg was preceded in death by her husband, John Victor Legg; a daughter, Barbara Shiver, a grandson, Eric Legg; two brothers, Edgar Sipper and John Sipper Jr.; and three sisters, Mattie Mae Dawkins, Francis Layton and Winnie Griswold.

Survivors include two daughters and son-in-law, Kathy L. and Richard McLeod, all of Troy, son-in-law, Ronnie Shiver, Brundidge; two sons and daughters-in-law, Hayward and Shirley Legg, John M. and Sharon Legg, all of Jack; one sister, Irene Layton, Enterprise; two brothers, Hewey Sipper, New Brockton, Herbert Sipper, Winter Garden, Fla., 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

JAMES YOUNG SMITH
Mr. James Young Smith, age 89, of 506 County Road 213, Jack, Ala., died April 13, 2003 at Elba Nursing Home, Elba, Ala.

Funeral services were held April 15, 2003 at Zion Chapel Baptist Church with Rev. Donnie Marler and Rev. Paul Kendrick officiating. Burial followed in the Zion Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery with Hayes Funeral Home of Elba directing.

Mr. Smith was preceded in death by his wife, Dessie Mae Smith, father, Samson Smith; mother, Josephine Smith; and two brothers, Voun D. and Jeffery Smith.

Survivors include two daughters and sons-in-law: Barbara Ann and Farlin Mobley, Mary Nell and Doug C. Shiver, all of Jack, one brother: Feazell Smith, Troy, four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and one great great-grandchild.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Kindergarten registration set for KES

Kinston School will hold kindergarten registration on April 30, 2003, from 8:00 a.m. until 3:15 p.m.

To register, the child must be 5 years old on or before September 2, 2003, in order to attend. The following information should be brought with the child to register: Birth certificate, Social Security Card, Immunization Forms, Proof of Chicken Pox Vaccination, or disease (letter from doctor or health department) and proof of residence (utility bill, apartment/home lease, etc.).

All parents who intend to enroll their child in kindergarten at the school are encouraged to register on this date.



Kinston Schools BULLDOG NEWS

Sponsors:
Janie Wiggins &
Shan Sessions

IDENT-A-KID coming to Kinston

IDENT-A-KID will be coming to Kinston School Tuesday, April 15th. This service is the nation's largest child identification program. The identification cards will have a full color photograph, complete physical description, parent's return address, permanent heat sealed laminate, important information

on the back and right index print on the back.

With this card parents can provide officials with vital information about the child. It can also serve as photo identification for older children for such things as student discounts, medical emergencies, school activities, summer jobs, and airline travel.

The cost of the cards is one card \$6 or four cards \$10. IDENT-A-KID encourages parents to purchase enough cards so that anyone who spends time with the child has a card with them at all times in case of an emergency.

IDENT-A-KID will also have a drawing from participants of the program. The winner will receive a new bicycle.

Third graders take field trip

On February 13, 2003, Mrs. Davis's and Mrs. Presley's third grade classes enjoyed a field trip to the Dothan Civic Center to see a production of the "Super Scientific Circus".

They all enjoyed seeing some of the science concepts they had studied this year demonstrated. It was fun as well as educational. After the show, they enjoyed lunch at Pizza Hut. As a grand finale, they stopped at Dairy Queen in Enterprise for ice cream.

Everyone had a wonderful day!

4-H News

by Lane Taylor

At our last 4-H meeting, we (Mrs. Moody's class) talked about how it is hard to breathe when you smoke and how it can kill you. We also talked about the 4-H camp, county fashion show, and pet fair.

The year is coming to the end and record books need to be finished.

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH, EDUCATION & SCHOOLS

KHS: 3rd Qtr. Honor Roll

GRADE 7
Suzanne Chance, Kourtney Pierce, Caitlin Tindell, Christie Whigham, Monica Wilford
GRADE 8
None
GRADE 9
Joshua Driver
GRADE 10
Breanna Hattaway, Brittany Holley
GRADE 11
Jeremy Driver, Courtney Farris, Jonathan Hattaway, Bridgett Marlowe, Megan Pineda, Ashley Runkle
GRADE 12
Elizabeth Farris, Ashley Johnson, Matthew McInnis, Matthew Wilkerson, Tina Williams
A-B
GRADE 7
Whitney Davis, Aaron Jacobs, Jessica Johnson, Heather Marlowe, Ashley McCall, John Moss, Samantha Peacock, Beth

Baseball and softball seasons underway at KHS



2003 KHS VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM...(kneeling, l to r): Tony Johnson, Jay Barlette, Shawn Brantley, Matthew Wilkerson, George Hamilton, Jody Davis, Garret Parker and Cole Meeks; (standing, l to r): Jim Bedsole, Jason McInnis, J.T. Wiggins, Jeremy Driver, Paul Camley, Shawn Miller, Josh Parker, Billy Johnson and Matthew McInnis. Head coach is Larry Comey and assistant coach is Keith Smith.



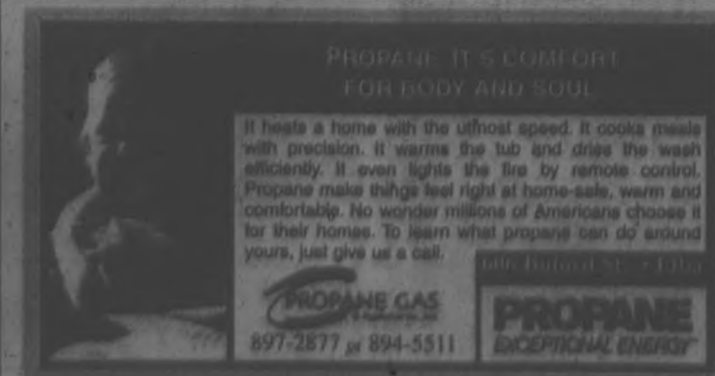
2003 KHS VARSITY SOFTBALL TEAM...(kneeling, l to r): Elizabeth Farris, Kaliegh Sanders, Katie Smith, Haley Kilcrease and Christie Whigham; (standing, l to r): Bridgett Marlowe, Tana Smith, Mandi Loupe, Heather Marlowe, Leann Newell, Kourtney Pierce and Brittany Holley. As of Thursday, April 10, the team had a record of 6-7. The head coach is Janie Wiggins, and the assistant coach is Andy Sanders. Not pictured is Megan King.



2003 KHS JUNIOR VARSITY SOFTBALL TEAM...(kneeling, l to r): Ashley Kelley, Ashley Lassiter, Ashley McCall, LaShae Smith, Amber McKinney and Deanna Manning; (standing, l to r): Candace Patterson, Brittany Hunko, Haley Spears, Monica Wilford, Kourtney Pierce, Christie Whigham and LaBrisa Boswell. As of Thursday, April 10, the team had a record of 6-1. The head coach is Janie Wiggins, and the assistant coach is Andy Sanders. Not pictured is Heather Kilcrease.

KES celebrates Dr. Seuss' birthday

On March 3, 2003, Kinston School celebrated Dr. Seuss' Birthday. The day started with Green Eggs and Ham in the lunchroom for breakfast. Classes were encouraged to have different readers come into class. Parents, student volunteers and even the Cat In The Hat visited the different classes. It was a fun filled day for everyone. Some students even enjoyed Green Eggs and Ham twice in one day because some classes cooked Green Eggs in the classroom. Below are a couple of scenes from the day.



SCHOOLS

Elba High School senior wins scholarship award

by Jessica Lauren Hathcock

Sheena Flowers, a senior at Elba High School, was awarded a \$3,000 scholarship for her amazing essay for the Share The Dream Essay Contest sponsored by Coca-Cola. The contest is open to all students in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. This year's essay topic was, "Based on his many speeches, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. dreamed of a world where people lived in harmony with one another despite their differences in race, economic situation, and/or beliefs. With this in mind, what can you do to make Dr. King's dream a reality?" We are all extremely proud of Sheena Flowers and wish her always the best of luck in her future endeavors. Here is her essay as it was submitted to the Coca-Cola Enterprises:

"We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal..." - Thomas Jefferson, 1776

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up, and live out the true meaning of its creed..." - Martin Luther King, Jr., 1963

Character Trait

by Meredith English

This week I have decided to choose *trust* as the character trait. In the Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary trust is defined as the total confidence in the integrity, ability, and good character of another. Trust is sometimes extremely hard to gain, according to the circumstances but it is just as easy to lose. In our hometown, I believe trust is an obvious emotion in most people towards complete strangers all around. For example, several people I know leave the car keys in the ignition while running an errand in our local Marketplace or Fred's. Other people have no problem leaving their vehicle running while paying for gas at convenience stores.

For the citizens of Elba to have that much trust in other residents of the town takes no effort at all, and for that I am thankful to be a part of this community.

EHS Band Day 2003

by Kimberly Farris

Elba celebrated Band Day on April 5 downtown on the square. Band Day was quite a success earning a gross of approximately \$15,000 for the band program at Elba City Schools.

Those attending Band Day were able to participate in the chair auction and watch live entertainment as well as other activities.

The Elba High School Band and the 5th and 6th grade bands performed several songs beginning and ending the day with music. The band played "How Hot, Hot", "The Hawaii 5-0 Theme", "In the Stone", and a few songs from the fall marching band show "Shine".



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Tiger Tales

Editor:
Sheena Flowers

English students write riddles

Submitted by Kaci Grantham

These riddles were written by Mrs. Norris' General 12th grade English Class:

We come and go everyday.
First he goes, then me.
He and I bring something special once.
Every turn.
A creature of great leaps and hops.
Sounds the alarm.
He who comes control great boundaries.
Which allows you to row over waves.
I fill the world with warmth
To many everyday.
I will scorch you like fire.
And rain down upon you as a beam.
He's the candle that guides you
In the darkness, but soon my
Fire blazes over.

by **Nicholas Folmer**
Sun and Moon
I strike fear in the hearts of many
Sometimes short
Often long and skinny
It often depends on the way I am tied
If death is held by my bind
I can only be used on certain
strong places
I am associated with the death of
certain faces
People call me a tool of hate
But in the past this is not always
the case
Yes it is true I am a tool of death
But only the deserving do I take
away the life of
by **Barb Barnes**
Confidence

I am a very useful tool.
Commonly used for school.
I'm all different shapes and sizes.
I bring new looks and surprises.
With me things are made better
for you.
If you need me and don't have
me what will you do?
I always make things easier to
understand.
I'm used for any woman or man.
I can also be used for boy or girl.
I truly have helped people develop
the world.
by **Danae Ware**
Glasses

I carry your things from place
to place
You take your stuff and invade
my space
When not needed I'm out of sight
All alone. I'm blind to the light.
Sometimes replaced by larger or
smaller
You must be thinking what can
I be
That holds and goes, oh by the
way, I might need a key.
Sometimes I'm lost, but then
found and returned.
Wait a minute, think careful.

In this week's spotlight is senior Jessica Lauren Hathcock. She is the 18-year-old daughter of Kevin and Kathy Hathcock. Jessica is a member of the Zion Chapel Baptist Church. As an active student of EHS, she is the President of the Spanish Club, editor of the Tiger Tales, the school newspaper, and senior class secretary. She is the coach of her favorite sport, which is soccer.

Her future plans consist of going to Troy State, then moving to Georgia so that she can attend the Savannah College of Art and Design to major in Computer Art and Illustration. Miss Hathcock enjoys writing poetry, drawing, reading Stephen King novels, going out with her friends, and watching her favorite "movie" "The Labyrinth".

Congrats to Jessica, a promising successful student!!!!

Random knowledge of April

by Sheena Flowers

April 13: Thomas Jefferson was born. (A different calendar was used back then and it is recorded as April 2.)

April 14: The British steamer *Titanic*, on its maiden voyage from England to New York City struck an iceberg and sank. About 1500 people died.

April 15: This day is National Grippers Day and Rubber Eraser Day as well as Income Tax Pay-Day. Also in 1955, Ray Kroc started the McDonald's chain of fast food restaurants. And, Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's theatre on this date.

April 18: In 1775, Paul Revere made his famous midnight ride.

April 19: The Revolutionary War began in Lexington, Massachusetts.

April 22: This is Earth Day.
April 23: In 1985 the Coca-Cola company of Atlanta announces a change in its 99-year-old secret formula, saying New Coke was "the most significant soft drink development" in the company's history. The deci-

then take your turn.
by **Trent Farris**
Suitcase
I am born of success and accomplishment
I can be encouraged and built up
but not given
I'm behind one's best performance
And within one I am never hidden
I can crumble when one struggles
but those who always have me
Possess a fortune fine to tell
I give leaders the strength to lead
And push champions to do their best
I make the good great
And raise the great above the rest
In some I am ever-present
But in most I rise and wave
When the waves of life push you
overboard
I am the life-saver
I can be as frail as a whisper
Or as strong as a shout
But to be your best
Me, you cannot be without
by **Barb Barnes**
Confidence

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I can be as frail as a whisper
Or as strong as a shout
But to be your best
Me, you cannot be without
by **Barb Barnes**
Confidence

I can be encouraged and built up
but not given
I'm behind one's best performance
And within one I am never hidden
I can crumble when one struggles
but those who always have me
Possess a fortune fine to tell
I give leaders the strength to lead
And push champions to do their best
I make the good great
And raise the great above the rest
In some I am ever-present
But in most I rise and wave
When the waves of life push you
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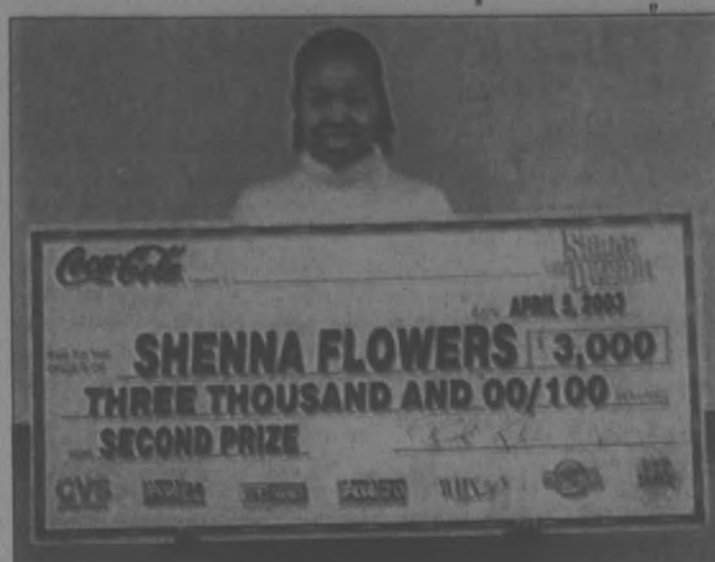
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The immortal words of Thomas Jefferson are known the world over and have been studied for decades. At the time Jefferson wrote these words, however, they unfortunately did not apply to non-Caucasians. Over a century later, a young preacher by the name of Martin Luther King, Jr. began to teach that the famous phrase did not only apply to Caucasians, but to all people from all walks of life.

Dr. King dedicated his life to the growth of equality between all races and classes. He believed that no matter their differences, people could and would live together peacefully. This vision was simply an idea in the 1960's; today, we are closer than ever to making his dream a complete reality. While we have made a great leap forward in the last forty years, we still have obstacles to overcome.

Racism and racial profiling are evils that have plagued America for far too long. The events that occurred shortly after the tragedy of September 11, 2001, are a primary example of this. Several citizens were "tried" because they resembled the men who carried out the malevolent act that devastated our country. It did not matter that these "substitutes" for the men were American citizens, either by birth or immigration, or that they were our friends, neighbors, teachers, or family members. America was grieving and it sought retribution. The "replacements" were shunned by some and harassed by others. Need I say that this was not the best way to handle a delicate situation?

How, can I, one person, change the thoughts and actions of so many? As a youth in today's society, I can choose to see people as they truly are and not by the stereotypes some ignorantly use. I can refuse to persecute someone because of a myth associated with the color of his skin, his nationality, or his sex. I can choose to educate others about the great contributions of minorities. I can be a



Elba High School senior Sheena Flowers

role model not only for my generation, but for past and future generations as well. I have the responsibility to be an example to those who surround me. I can rise above the senseless negativity and prove to others that many of their assumptions and impressions of people are wrong. I can and will continue to be the person that I was raised to be—one who does not judge a person's character by the hue of his skin. I may not be able to change the view of the world, but by sharing my beliefs and values with others, hopefully I can influence some of those around me and perhaps in the process help bring Dr. King's dream to light.

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SPORTS

Views from....

THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Melanie is now taking home economics at school and every day when she comes home she tells us what they learned to cook that day in class. While it is obvious that she and her classmates all like macaroni and cheese, they also have learned to cook some pretty tasty items, one of which we tried on Sunday night. It is great that the kids at school get the chance to learn how to cook, and hopefully they will all take their lessons home and do a lot of home work.

SWINGS AND MISSES...

*** The Elba Tigers whipped up on Samson 7-4 last week to improve their record to 8-5 on the season, and with the state playoffs only one week away, it is time for the Tigers to get on a roll and enter the playoffs filled with confidence. The win over Samson wasn't really as close as the score might indicate and was a game in which the Tigers got to have some fun, but at the same time the Tigers did have to play in every inning and keep their concentration. Elba has had a lot of games washed out by the weather and won't have quite as many games under their belts as Coach Grimes would have liked come next week's playoff opener; however, the Tigers know how to play and know what it takes to win. It is time to step up and be counted.

*** The Elba Lady Tigers upped their record to 13-2 last week with a 5-1 win over 4A Opp, and Lady Tiger pitcher Stephanie Baxley once again shined as the freshman hurler tossed a 1-hitter with 15 strike-outs. The win was sweet and Baxley was in command, but the thing Coach Rhoades liked best was the fact that the Lady Tigers committed no errors in the game. It was the first game this season that Elba was flawless in the field, and that made the Elba coach smile even more than usual. If the Lady Tigers can keep improving in the field, and also improve at the plate, they could just have a chance to play a lot more softball before this season rolls to an end.

*** The wet and cold weather played havoc with the high school and recreation schedules last week, but the weatherman is promising more sunshine this week and hopefully that means the leagues can all get in their games. This season there will be seven baseball leagues and five softball leagues sponsored the recreation department for boys and girls ages 4-18, and that should keep everybody busy, especially the parents.

*** The Dothan Eagle released its "Super 12" basketball team for the girls last weekend and included on the list was Elba's Ayonna Proctor. Proctor has been a starter for the Lady Tigers since the eighth grade and for the past two years has really stepped up and become one of the area's top players. Proctor has a lot of talent and the drive to be the best, but she is also living proof that hard work does indeed pay off, since she can often be found playing against men and boys in the rec center gym. Her best days are still ahead, and she is true success story that all should follow.

*** In closing...there is an article in the sports this week about Elba native Kevin Matthews and his love for turkey hunting. Matthews was a multi-sport athlete at Elba High and didn't even start hunting until the age of 19, but fell in love with the sport and now is helping others get hooked. One thing is certain, those turkeys can't hit as hard as those linebackers did when he the quarterback for the Tigers.

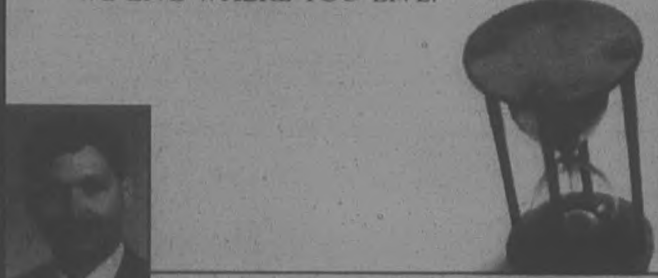
NEED ROOM IN THAT CLOSET?

If you have any used sporting goods equipment that you would like to get rid of please call the Elba Department of Parks and Recreation. Those used items could be made almost new for a needy youngster competing in a youth league.

Call: 897-6833 to arrange pick up

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Improve record to 13-2

Elba Lady Tigers roll past Opp 5-1

The Elba Lady Tigers pulled ahead early and never looked back Thursday afternoon to claim an impressive 5-1 win over the Opp Lady Bobcats, in Elba.

The Lady Tigers, which improved their record to 13-2 with the win, managed only one hit over the first two innings, but combined two hits with three walks in the third to score four runs and grab a 4-0 advantage.

A one-out single by Whitney Lawford started the third inning outburst for Elba, while the key hit in the inning was a bases-loaded single by Devri Kilcrease that knocked in two runs and put the Lady Tigers on top 4-0.

Elba upped its lead to 5-0 in the fifth inning when Samantha Williams doubled and later scored on a fielder's choice, and the Lady Tigers carried the lead into the final frame, only to see the Lady Bobcats avoid the shut-out thanks to four walks.

Devri Kilcrease got 2 hits and



ELBA TIGER MATTHEW CURRAN...awaits a pitch during a recent Tiger win. Curran had a key hit last week to help the Tigers claim a 7-4 win over Samson.

Tigers slam Samson 7-4

The Elba Tigers pulled ahead early and held on late Friday afternoon to post a 7-4 win over the Samson Tigers, in Elba.

The Tigers, which upped their record to 8-5 with the win, trailed 1-0 heading into the bottom of the second inning, but combined two hits with a walk and a hit batter to plate two runs and grabbed the lead at 2-1.

A one-out single by Ralston Moore ignited the Tigers rally, while Matthew Curran also added a single to keep the inning alive. A walk to Blake Lambert loaded the bases, and both Moore and Curran crossed the plate as a passed ball and a free pass to Brandon Petty allowed the Tigers to sneak ahead 2-1.

The Tigers carried the slim 2-1 lead into the bottom of the fourth. However, Elba pushed across three runs with two outs in the inning to increase its lead to 5-1. A one-out walk to Matthew Curran and a single by Blake Lambert pumped life into the Tigers, but that hope was dimmed only one batter later when Samson recorded the second out of the inning on a fielder's choice. Kyle English delivered a two-out, two-run double to drive in two Tigers runs, and English later scored on a wild



ELBA LADY TIGER DEVRI KILCREASE... keeps an eye on the pitcher after reaching base on a hit in recent tournament action. Elba assistant coach David Collins is also watching as the Lady Tigers battle to reach the state playoffs in 3A.

drove in 2 runs to lead Elba at the plate, while Samantha Williams added 1 hit and scored 2 runs. Stephanie Baxley was

the winning pitcher as she pitched seven innings and allowed only one run on one hit and eight walks, while striking

ASA Grand Slam could win up to \$1000 for area softball teams

One team could win up to \$1,000 this summer by competing in the ASA "Grand Slam Giveaway" that includes three tournaments in three months.

The three tournaments are set for Troy on April 19 and May 24, and in Euftala on June 6-7, and will include both men's and women's events.

Trophies will be presented to the top four teams at all three tournaments for both the men's and women's teams, and t-shirts will be given to the winning teams. For each game a team plays in the tournaments, the team's name will be entered in a drawing for \$1,000. The more games a team plays in, the better

its chances to win the pot. A team must play in all three tournaments to qualify for the \$1,000, with a team playing in two events getting \$500 and a team playing on one event to receive \$250. If a team wins the drawing that didn't play in all three events, another drawing will be held to insure the total \$1,000 purse is given away!

The entry fee for each tournament will be \$150 and each team will hit its own ball. The home-run rule for the men will be 3 and an out. For more information, or to enter, call Gene Calhoun at 677-5187 or 618-4740.

High School
DIAMOND DUSTINGS

* BASEBALL *

Kinston Bulldogs bite Goshen Eagles 10-7

The Kinston Bulldogs evened their record at 8-8 Friday afternoon with a 10-7 win over the Goshen Eagles, at Goshen. Cole Meeks and Jason McInnis both had 3 hits to lead the Bulldogs, while George Hamilton and Matthew Melvinis added 2 hits apiece and Matthew Wilkerson got the win on the mound.

New Brockton Gamecocks rip Red Level 15-5

The New Brockton Gamecocks continued their late-season surge Friday afternoon by blasting the Red Level Tigers 15-5, in Red Level. Heath Parker and Tyler McLean both had 3 hits to lead the Gamecocks at the plate, while Tyler Simmons, Layton Griffin and Tanner Medley all added one hit and three runs-batted-in. Trent Baxley was the winning pitcher.

* SOFTBALL *

Kinston Lady Bulldogs win Arton Tourney

The Kinston Lady Bulldogs and Arton Lady Cats finally got the chance to end the Arton Softball Tournament on Friday afternoon and it was the Lady Bulldogs that took home the title by winning 4-3. Kaleigh Sanders was the winning pitcher for Kinston, while Bridgett Marlowe and Megan King added 2 hits apiece. Abbey Sanders and Lexi Phillips both had 2 hits for Arton.

Brantley Lady Bulldogs edge Arton 5-2

The Brantley Lady Bulldogs got a big win in softball action Thursday as they defeated the Arton Lady Cats 5-2, in Arton. Christy Frighten got 2 hits to lead Brantley, while Lexi Phillips recorded 13 strike-outs for the Lady Cats.

PREP BASEBALL & SOFTBALL
SCHEDULES

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

* BASEBALL *

Elba at Pike County (4:30)

* SOFTBALL *

Pike County at Elba (4:00)

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

* BASEBALL *

Zion Chapel at Kinston DH (1:00)

MONDAY, APRIL 21

* SOFTBALL *

Daleville at Elba (4:00)

Opp at Kinston (4:00)

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

* SOFTBALL *

Geneva County at Elba (4:00)

Kinston at Pleasant Home JV-V (4:30)

Pike County at Zion Chapel (4:00)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

* BASEBALL *

State High School Baseball Playoffs

* SOFTBALL *

Daleville at Elba (4:00)

SPORTS

Kevin Matthews has turned love of turkey hunting into successful part-time career and business

Reprinted from
The Thomasville Times
THOMASVILLE - Kevin Matthews didn't start turkey hunting until he was 19 but after getting his first taste of gobbler-stalking, he was addicted.

"My wife's daddy, Dean Smith, took me turkey hunting for the first time in 1991," Matthews said. "On my first hunt, I killed a big gobbler and I was hooked. I got downright obsessed with it and have enjoyed it ever since."

Since that first turkey hunt, Matthews immersed himself in turkey hunting and now makes his own calls and serves as a guide for turkey hunters at Bent Creek Lodge in Jachin, over in Choctaw County.

However, his current success in the sport goes back to that turkey hunt in 1991.

"After that first hunt, I started reading everything I could get my hands on and watching tapes about turkey hunting," the Elba native said. "I was going to college at Enterprise State Community College and it took about 40 minutes to drive there from Elba. The whole time during that drive, I'd have a call in my mouth, working on the perfect sound."

Matthews said he practiced year-round with his calling. "I didn't take any time away from it," he said. "When I wasn't watching tapes or reading books about calling turkeys, I was out in the woods, listening to all the sounds that turkeys make. I loved it then and I still do."

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Enterprise State, Matthews went to Auburn University, where he took part in the co-op program. "I'd go to school for a quarter and work for a quarter," he said. "Luckily for me, I worked at the Georgia-Pacific mill in New Augusta, Mississippi."

He began talking with co-workers at the mill about turkey hunting and demonstrated his calling abilities.

"Some of the guys heard me yelping and got me in touch with Preston Pittman," Matthews related.

Pittman gained tremendous fame in the turkey-hunting world when he developed the "Black Diamond" mouth call, still to this day one of the most popular mouth calls among turkey hunters.

"We hit it off real good," Matthews said. "I started working for him on the side, building calls and packaging stuff for shipping. During that time, I learned an awful lot about turkey hunting."

Matthews said he got to go to various competitions and met some of the best turkey callers around. He also encountered many veteran turkey hunters who often stopped by Pittman's shop in rural Mississippi.

"I'd just sit there and listen, soaking up every word they said," Matthews related. "I got a great chance to pick up on some things that I might never have learned hunting by myself."

After college, Matthews went to work for Weyerhaeuser and he continued to dabble in making turkey calls.

"I worked with Larry Norton over in Pennington," Matthews said. "Larry is a first-rate guy

and taught me a lot about making calls. In fact, he told me I needed to start making my own calls and he helped me get started up. If it wasn't for him, I probably wouldn't be making calls now."

In 1998, Matthews met Barry Springfield from Georgia, who helped him get into making calls on his own.

"Barry had a real precise system," Matthews said. "He recorded every measurement for every call he made. He paid a lot of attention to detail. He was phasing out of the business but he shared a lot of that knowledge with me. I finally decided to order the machines and start fooling with my own calls."

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Matthews said he got to go to various competitions and met some of the best turkey callers around. He also encountered many veteran turkey hunters who often stopped by Pittman's shop in rural Mississippi.

"We hit it off real good," Matthews said. "I started working for him on the side, building calls and packaging stuff for shipping. During that time, I learned an awful lot about turkey hunting."

Matthews said he got to go to various competitions and met some of the best turkey callers around. He also encountered many veteran turkey hunters who often stopped by Pittman's shop in rural Mississippi.

"I'd just sit there and listen, soaking up every word they said," Matthews related. "I got a great chance to pick up on some things that I might never have learned hunting by myself."

After college, Matthews went to work for Weyerhaeuser and he continued to dabble in making turkey calls.

"I worked with Larry Norton over in Pennington," Matthews said. "Larry is a first-rate guy

and taught me a lot about making calls. In fact, he told me I needed to start making my own calls and he helped me get started up. If it wasn't for him, I probably wouldn't be making calls now."

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COMMUNITY NEWS

2003 ZC beauty queens crowned in four categories



LITTLE MISS ZION CHAPEL... Veronica Kidd was named 2003 Little Miss Zion Chapel. She is pictured with first runner up Shelby Sorrells and second runner up Kahla Allen.

Congratulations to All These Young Ladies!!

The Miss Zion Chapel Pageant was held March 8, 2003 at the Zion Chapel High School auditorium. The pageant was sponsored by Zion Chapel Youth Sports.

Winners were named in several categories including photographic, evening gown, interview and written communications. These winners were:

Photogenic: Junior Miss Zion Chapel: Erica Lewis; Little Miss Zion Chapel: Veronica Kidd

Evening Gown or Best Dress: Miss Zion Chapel: Ceaira Smith; Junior Miss Zion Chapel: Brandy Crawford; and Little Miss Zion Chapel: Shelby Sorrells; Future Little Miss Zion Chapel: Arielle Lowery

Interview: Miss Zion Chapel: Whitney Stephens; Junior Miss Zion Chapel: Brandy Crawford; Little Miss Zion Chapel: Veronica Kidd; Future Little Miss Zion Chapel: Sadie Grantham

Written Communications: Miss Elba: Kim McClain

Collected the Most Monetary Donations: Makenzie Wambles

Sold the Most Chances on \$100 Bill: Brittney Hill

Sold the Most Good Luck Lines: Shelby Sorrells



MISS ZION CHAPEL... Whitney Stephens was named 2003 Miss Zion Chapel. She is pictured with first runner up Ceaira Smith and second runner up Nicolette Paez. Kimberly McClain was named third runner up.



FUTURE LITTLE MISS ZION CHAPEL... Sadie Grantham was named 2003 Future Little Miss Zion Chapel. She is pictured with first runner up Madison Bedsole and second runner up Savannah Williamson. Named as alternates were Destinee Lowry and Madison Grissett.



JUNIOR MISS ZION CHAPEL... Brandy Crawford was named 2003 Jr. Miss Zion Chapel. She is pictured with first runner up Erica Lewis and second runner up Calista Crook.



Called to Duty and Serving Their Country

The United States is currently involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom and the War Against Terrorism; therefore, we take this opportunity to honor our service men and women who are selflessly fighting to protect our freedoms of today and tomorrow. Please join us in saluting these men and women:

Randolph Shon Willis	Jeremy Blenn
Ronnie Davis	Bradford Ashley
Demetrius Siler	Chad Chancellor
Jason Jordan	Amber Ellison Simmons
Rob Hunt	Dexter Watkins
Jason Thomas	Melody Byrd Bryant
Edward Jonathan Tillis	Kerry Hardy
Donnie Morris	Timothy A. Lamore
Michael A. DeSandro	James Kenneth (Buck) Simmons
Marian Smith	Willie (Ray) Slawson
David Head Jr.	

Help Let the Community Know Who is Serving Our Country... Call the Elba Clipper at 897-2823 and Add Their Name to this List!

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WILLIAM engagement party



INSIDE

Elba FFA Quartet places second at district competition



INSIDE

Local Citizens of Tomorrow featured



The Elba Clipper

Volume 106, Number 45

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, April 24, 2003

1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 2 Adv. Inserts

Elba City Schools receive good reviews from monitoring teams

by Linda Hodge, Editor

When it comes to education in Alabama these days, the odds are stacked against those on all sides, but despite the gloomy outlook, the Elba City School System is taking it in stride and looking for ways to cope.

Superintendent Danny Weeks said the school system just com-

"The visiting team praised the work at the elementary school and agreed that recent efforts of the staff toward SACS compliance met most of the requirements for the Title I schoolwide plan," Weeks said. "Any corrections we will enact must be complete within six months."

The Special Education Focused monitoring was the

most recent review, March 10-14, and this team randomly selected 25 folders in which six of those were intensely monitored with interviews.

Weeks said the areas of strength found by the team included:

• personnel was well prepared and

receptive to the monitoring process;

• positive school climate in both schools;

• general education teachers implemented accommodations and modifications for special education students in their classrooms;

• array of instructional personnel and resources were noted;

• forms created by the school system were noted as "excellent";

• Alabama Reading Initiative and Language were noted as great

intervention programs for the students;

• good parent participation; and

• good community support was noted for the welding program at Elba High School.

"Overall, I was very pleased about the monitoring visits," Weeks said.

He added that the one thing he was especially proud of included the recognition by each monitoring team of the great community involvement the Elba

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City of Elba assists school system with lighting project for campus

by Linda Hodge, Editor

"Penny-pinching" is the name of the game for school systems in Alabama these days, and the Elba City School System is no stranger to that game.

Some time back, the school system was awarded bond monies to pave the parking lot at the Elba Elementary School; and although Superintendent Danny Weeks said he would have loved to have been able to use the money in the classroom or to pay an additional teacher's salary, the funds were earmarked for improvement projects such as the paved parking lot.

So, the elementary school got a paved parking lot, and at the same time, the school system managed to save enough dollars for additional campus enhancement projects to be funded with the bond monies.

Fast forward to the present, and those who visit the campus will notice the addition of roadside lighting beginning on the hilltop and leading to the front of the high school.

"It was requested several years ago that more lighting be placed around the school," Weeks said. "This project will not only add to the safety of the campus at night, but I believe it will enhance our school area."

He said the lights will especially be a great addition to the school campus during the summer months because many local residents use the campus as a place to exercise through walking.

Weeks said he wishes the school system could purchase enough lights to go all the way around the campus, but the funds would only allow so much at this time. However, he said he feels the area in which the lights have been placed was the most needed with the steep hill in that area, and the front of each school will benefit from



City employees with the electric department were busy working on the lighting project last Thursday morning as some were covering the trench after the lights had been placed while others were moving ahead with the ground and light preparation.

the lighting.

Weeks also said the school system was able to save money with this particular project because of the overwhelming support of the City of Elba as employees of its electric department handled the labor part of the project.

He said the school system purchased the lights, but the city employees took care of all the work from digging a nearly 2,000 foot trench for the wiring to placing the light poles in the ground.

"We really appreciate everything the city has done to help enhance the campus of our school system," Weeks said. "Community support is something we all can be proud of here in Elba."



Area Happenings

THE COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION will conduct its regular bimonthly meeting Monday, April 28, at 9 a.m. in the community room of the county complex in New Brockton.

THE DOTHAN-HOUSTON COUNTY SUBSTANCE ABUSE PARTNERSHIP AND THE WIREGRASS HISPANIC-LATINO OUTREACH PROGRAM will host the International Family Day in the Park on Saturday, May 3, from 10:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Johnny Henderson Park, Hwy. 167 N., Enterprise. Activities scheduled include: Wiregrass Hispanic soccer tournament, Hispanic folklore, live musical entertainment and workshop on Hispanic issues.

ELBA HEAD START is now taking applications for children ages 3 years or older for the 2003-2004 school year. Find out how to apply by stopping by the Elba Head Start office, next to SouthTrust Bank or call 897-3675.



ROADS CLOSED FOR LEVEE WORK... Motorists in Elba have become accustomed to seeing road closed signs around town as the levee rehabilitation project has forced certain areas to be reworked. A section of Martin Luther King Drive recently reopened after being closed several weeks for levee work, and Caroline Street (shown above) is currently closed at the point where the levee crosses that road. The latest road to be added to the list is Alabama Highway 87. The City of Elba announced this week the closing of heavily travelled Hwy. 87 from Windham Lumber Company to the 203 Bypass. The road was scheduled to be closed as of Tuesday, April 22, but remained open as of press time; however, motorists can expect that section of road to be closed any day now as the levee rehab project continues. According to officials, this section of Hwy. 87 will be closed until further notice.

Local citizens encouraged to "lace up" their shoes for Fun Run/Walk

"Celebrate...Elba 150" is officially underway, and planning continues for the many events scheduled throughout the year with the next activity being one that could physically make a difference in everyone's life.

According to information from the Alabama Department of Public Health, Alabama ranks among the least physically active states in the nation with 32 percent of adults reporting no physical activity whatsoever.

Therefore, the sesquicentennial Fun Run/Walk planned for Saturday, May 3, can serve as the starting point for local citizens to shape up and become more physically active while having a bit of fun.

Heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer, arthritis and osteoporosis are major chronic conditions that can be significantly improved by increased physical activity. A minimum of 30 minutes a day of moderate physical activity (such as brisk walking) is recommended, and can be divided into three 10-minute segments with the same health benefits.

The Fun Run runners/walkers will begin their journey from in front of the Elba Senior Citizen's Center and complete a one mile track across downtown Elba following a marked path. Ambassadors from Elba High School will stand post at each corner to help direct the participants.

Upon completion of the event, prizes will be awarded to the first place winner in each age category which includes: 5 to 8 years old; 9 to 12 years old; 13-18 years old; 19-29 years old; 30-40 years old; 41-55 years old; and over 55 years of age. Children under the age of 13 must be accompanied by a parent or adult.

The goal of the Fun Run committee is to get 1504 runners/walkers to commemorate the birthday of Elba by taking a quick journey around the downtown area.

Registration will begin at 7 a.m. on Saturday, May 3, at the Elba Senior Citizen's Center (across from the police station) with the first steps being made at 8 a.m. There is a small entry fee of \$5 per person, and interested persons should contact the Elba Chamber of Commerce office at 897-3125 for more information.

REMINDER

Coffee County Branch #607 NAACP Monthly Executive meeting will be held Saturday, April 26, at 9:30 a.m. with the regular meeting at 10 a.m. at John Chisler AME Church, Enterprise.

People of all ages are encouraged to participate in Elba's Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, May 3. The event not only will be a lot of fun for those involved, but it will be a great way to get just a little extra exercise as everyone strives to be healthier. Elba Mayor James Grimes (kneeling) was joined last week by several Fun Run/Walk supporters as they all tightened those shoe laces and started practicing for the upcoming event. The excited group included (from left): Connor Kelley, Christine Nelson, Future Little Miss Elba Annisey Padgett, Jaron Kelley and Little Miss Elba Reagan Kelley.

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